

Paton School News

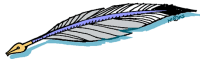
Paton School
PTO



January 2005



A Message From Our Principal...



Appreciation: Thanks to everyone who brought in hats, mittens, games, books, clothing, and toys for our giving tree. I had the pleasure of walking by it many times a day as your generosity grew and grew. Many children and families had special holidays because you cared enough to share your prosperity with them.

The fourth grade chorus, under the leadership of Georgia Demarky-Anderson, worked so well together in putting on two performances before the holidays.

Congratulations to Mrs. Gustafson's class, and all of you, who donated over 600 books for the U. Mass. Medical Center's pediatric AIDS clinic. Mrs. Gustafson's brother told me that they are able to give so many children a book to take home with them after they've visited!

Mrs. Maiuri's and Mrs. Moran's class (and their family chefs) for raising at their bake sale almost \$150 that has been donated to the Salvation Army. They also wrote a persuasive letter to Target stores asking them to reconsider their decision to prohibit charitable fundraising on their properties.

Our chess club is off to a terrific start, thanks to our "Chessmaster" Bob Oetting and several parents who have helped out. We have 21 third and fourth graders participating.

We all enjoyed the Holiday Tea and Cookie Swap. Thanks to you all for your contributions to those staff appreciation events.

Staff News: Nicole Bateman and her husband welcomed twin daughters in November. Nicole has decided that she needs to be home with her girls for the remainder of the school year, so she won't be
(Continued on page 4)

From the PTO Presidents...

Wow! Can you believe it is 2005? We wish all Paton families a year full of peace, health and happiness. Here's to 2005!

Besides the cold and, for us skiers and boarders, hopefully snowy weather, January brings many exciting events to our school. Keep an eye out for our movie night. This is an event that is always well loved by the kids!! Also, with the success of our newly formed Chess Club, we are presently looking for a volunteer or two to head up a Knitting Club. If you are interested, please get in touch with either one of us. Our After School Crafts went well and be on the lookout for some new activities that your child, or you, may be interested in. And, if you might like to take on an After School Activity, get in touch, we'd be happy to get it going for you. We believe that part of the wonderful experience our children here at Paton have comes from not only their classroom experience but extracurricular experiences as well.

We were both happy to see so many of you at all the events we held in December. Our annual Holiday Gift Fair was supplemented by the Fourth Grade Café. Both were a wonderful success. We thank all who attended and all parents and children that donated their time to making another successful Paton fundraiser. This December saw our first annual Paton Boutique. For those of you who attended I think you'd agree that it was wonderful, and surprising, to see so many extremely talented Paton parents and their products. For those of you who could not make it – we recommend that you not miss this event next year. There were wonderful items and it provided the perfect venue for some holiday shopping. We sure took advantage of it.

(Continued on page 3)

From the PTO Presidents... (Continued)

We think we'd be safe in saying that our Teacher Holiday Tea and First Annual Cookie Swap were warmly received by our wonderful Paton teachers and staff. Thanks to everyone that helped make these two holiday events extremely successful.

Again, we thank everyone at Paton School, from our students, to our teachers, principal, staff and of course wonderful parents for making our school the best around.

**Please join us at our next PTO meeting,
Tuesday, January 4 at 7 P.M.-8 P.M.
Room 21.**

See you there !!

Lynne and Alison

Lperreault@highoutput.com

AKFeeney@aol.com

842-8845

845-6097

KNITTING ANYONE ??

Love to knit?

Want to help our children learn to knit ?
Girls and Boys alike are returning to this old favorite. Knitting has become extremely popular recently and we would love to be able to offer our children the opportunity to learn this wonderful craft.

We are looking for some interested parents to help us start an after school **Knitting Club** here at Paton.

We need some willing volunteers to start this club. Once we have some interested adults who can teach, or help with teaching, we can set up the dates and times the club will meet.

If you are interested, please call
Lynne Perreault (508-842-8845)
LPerreault@highoutput.com,
Alison Feeney (508-845-6097)
AKFeeney@aol.com, or
Heather Vouna

We hope to hear from you soon.
Knit one Purl two !!

2004-2005 Paton PTO Schedule

PTO Meetings @7:00 PM
the first Tuesday of every month

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

Tuesday, February 1, 2005

Tuesday, March 1, 2005

Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Tuesday, May 3, 2005

Tuesday, June 7, 2004

All meetings are in room 21

DESTINATION IMAGINATION



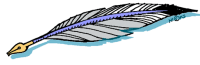
Destination Imagination (DI) is a creativity/team building program that encourages participants to find creative solutions to team challenges. There is an active program in the Shrewsbury schools that many students have been and are participating in. At

Paton, we are interested in forming a primary team that would be open to second graders. The team, or teams if we have a lot of interest, would meet once a week from the second week of January until mid-March. The team could also attend the regional DI tournament in March. Primary teams present their team challenge but do not compete against other teams, which is a great introduction to DI. There is a fee that will be required of each student that participates, but any child that wants to participate is welcome to. Parents are encouraged to volunteer to help with the teams and there is a training scheduled in January. The teams will meet after school or early evenings.

For further information about forming a DI primary team at Paton, contact Paton parent Carol Geary at 845-6070 or gdgeary@cs.com.

For information about Shrewsbury's Destination Imagination program, contact coordinator Jean Josie at jjosie@townisp.com.

From Our Principal... (continued)



returning to teach until the Fall. Joan Matys will continue to job share with Jessica Flinn until the close of school in June.

Upcoming Events: We're looking forward to author Greg Tang's visit on Jan. 31st. He will meet with each grade level and help the children learn more about the authoring process, how a book goes to publication, and about learning math. Appreciation to Denise Banach (Enrichment Chair) and the PTO for funding his visit. Watch for a flier that explains the process for preordering one of Greg's books. He will autograph them on the day of his visit.

On Jan. 26 (Wed.), 7 – 8:30 P.M. here at Paton, two of our teachers, Linda Lepiesza (1st grade) and Kathy Soderstrom (4th grade) will offer a district-PTO sponsored workshop on "Helping your Children Become Better Readers and Writers." I'm certain you'll come away with many new ideas to help you help your children across all of the elementary grades and beyond.

Help needed: Teachers in grades 3 and 4 have expressed an interest in having a before or after school "Taming the Meanies" club where parents will work with children to build speed in recalling addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division facts. If you have an interest and availability to help, please let Yvette St. Pierre (evie.mae@verizon.net) or me know. We'd like to begin mid-January.

Please save these dates, and avoid making appointments or planning travel that will affect attendance during the MCAS testing periods:

Grade 3: Mar. 28–Apr. 8

Grade 4: Apr. 6 and May 16–27

Our school and district is penalized in the scoring process for students who don't take the tests within these windows of time.

Other important dates:

Parent conference day

March 16; no school for students

Authors' Celebrations:

April 13 in the morning: grades 1 and 2

April 13 in the afternoon: grades 3 and 4

April 14 in the morning: grades 3 and 4

April 14 in the afternoon: grades 1 and 2

Winter Weather is upon us: Our weather station is up and working! We're able to check the "heat index" (wind chill temperature) to answer the most frequently asked question each day: "Is it indoor or outdoor recess?" Our soon-to-be second grade weather scientists will be reporting the weather daily. "Thanks to members of our ITAMS staff, the Town Light Dept, and Gary Chalmers for making it all work. A very special note of appreciation to the Kyle Johnson Memorial Grant for funding this purchase. We're continuing to work towards having the Paton weather posted on our website.

Remember children will go out to recess whenever there's no precipitation and the "heat index" is 30 degree or above. Please send them to school dressed accordingly.

School cancellation information can be found on television (channels 4, 5, and 7), and radio (WTAG 580AM, WBZ 1030AM, and WSRS 96.1 FM). If there is a one hour delayed opening, staff will not be at school to supervise children until 9:45 a.m.

My wishes for a Happy New Year to you and yours!

Jayne Wilkin, Principal



Fall Social

It is hard to believe the Fall Social came and went so fast. I hope all of the children had fun. We had lots of games, prizes, music and contest winners. And what voices on our karaoke singers!! Thank you to all of the many volunteers and people donating time, food and other items, including but not limited to my committee members Gina Joubert, Donna Drohan and Alicia Chignola, and especially my helpers from the Oak Middle School Derek Wilczynski, Katie Brooks, Lauren Grella and Gianna Mancuso, for taking the time to help their old alma mater. I would also like to thank Lois Vigneault and Mark Eaton of ICL Imaging of Framingham for donating the lovely Fall Social Banner, something we will make good use of for many years to come.

Maureen Wilczynski
Chairperson



The Home-School Connection
Attend a Parent Workshop Sponsored by Your PTO!

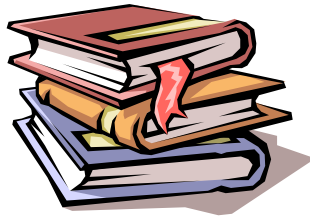
Dear Parents of Shrewsbury Students,

You are invited to attend the next free workshop in the Pre K-12 PTO sponsored parent workshop series.

What: Helping my Child Become a Better Reader and Writer

When: Wednesday, January 26th, 7 to 8:30 PM

Where: Paton School, Room 2, 1st Floor



Presenters: Linda Lepiesza--- 1st grade classroom teacher, Paton School
Kathy Soderstrom--- 4th grade classroom teacher, Paton School

The goal of this workshop is to share some tools and resources that will help you enhance your child's literacy skills.

This workshop will

- ♣ Discuss ways to create a home environment that encourages literacy development.
- ♣ Offer ideas to encourage oral language, reading, and writing at home.
- ♣ Demonstrate strategies for understanding reading.
- ♣ Demonstrate strategies for improving writing.

If possible, please RSVP at 508-841-8300 ext. 4220 or email me at lbuxamusa@shrewsbury.k12.ma.us. When leaving a message, please include your name and phone number. If you cannot send an RSVP, please do not hesitate to still attend. We would love to see you!

IMPORTANT: If Shrewsbury Public Schools are closed that day due to inclement weather conditions, the workshop will be cancelled.

Cancellations will be posted on the local educational cable channel (SETV-34).

Sincerely,
Loubaina Buxamusa
Program Coordinator

October School Council Report for December 2004

We met on Dec. 7th in our Media Research Room and addressed these areas:

1. Glenn Johnson provided information from the Dec. 6th coordinating council meeting. Updates on Sherwood Project, 2005-06 enrollment projections, upcoming homework parent and teacher surveys, input around transportation for the upcoming bid process, and ways to seek additional sources of revenue were all discussed.
2. Jayne Wilkin updated us on information related to facility and school budget requests that have been submitted.
3. Our major focus was on Goal 1 of the School Improvement Plan: Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment. The following progress to date was shared:
 - Review of DRA and MCAS results and recommendations for improvement of student performance in English Language Arts. Staff have analyzed student performance. Staff development has addressed teaching more poetry, higher level questioning skills, inferred main idea, practicing story retellings, nonfiction comprehension strategies, and personal narrative writing. Teachers have shared strategies that have helped to improve student performance. These areas continue to be addressed by teachers.
 - Reading assessments in all grades to target individual student needs. This will occur at least once more before the end of the year.
 - Ongoing use of supplemental materials in math; realignment of instruction to the Massachusetts standards in math; trial implementation of - Everyday Math at each grade level. These will continue to be addressed.
 - Benchmarking standards at each grade level in a clearly articulated curriculum, review of common assessments and field testing at each grade level, which will continue during trimesters 2 and 3.

- Oct. Professional Development work on refinement of rubrics and sharing of record keeping strategies. Staff has also participated in content professional development. Additional PD is planned for Jan. and March.
- Professional development to address a standards-based teaching environment. This will continue in March.
- We have added, through grants, building based and district funds: nonfiction titles in support of science and social studies, leveled books for all grade levels (fiction and nonfiction titles), and books reflective of diversity to the Media Center.
- Many of the recommendations of the science and mathematics curriculum review reports have been implemented at the building level.
- Additional resources to support the social studies curriculum changes in grades 3 and 4.

These activities are planned, partially addressed, or yet to be addressed:

- Strengthening our guided reading program via teacher training and sharing of best practices (February–April).
- Examining the AYP results for special education students in mathematics.
- Review of science MCAS results along with ideas for providing for meaningful review of previous learning for 5th grade testing.
- Teacher review of exemplars for the common assessments.
- Methods of sharing rubrics electronically.
- Investigate additional ways to add titles to our media collection.
- Funding for hoped for adoption of the Everyday Math program at the district level.
- Additional recommendations of the science and math curriculum reviews.

Our next meeting will be held in Rom 15, on Wednesday, Jan. 19 at 4 P.M. the focus will be on School Improvement Plan Goal 2: Professional Development and Goal 3: "Respectful Community."

Submitted by Jayne Wilkin, Principal

+ Nurse's Notes +

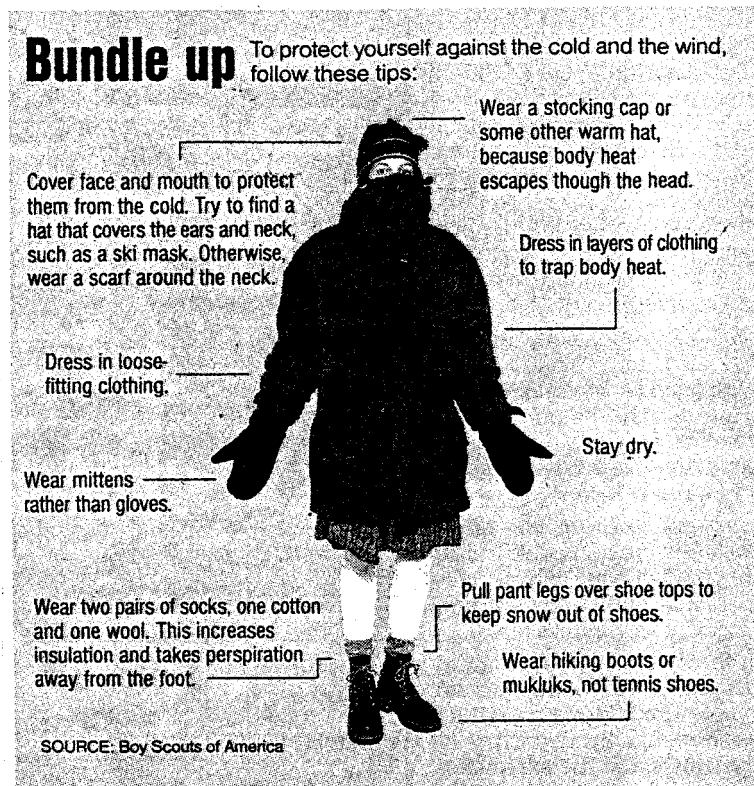
As we begin a New Year, I wish health and happiness to all. I hope everyone had a chance to visit with family and friends over the December vacation.

I want to thank all the Paton parents and students who donated to the Giving Tree. Several of our Paton family's holidays were made happier with your donations.

In the newsletter I have enclosed a copy about how to stay warm and protected in cold weather. Please take the time to read this information. I see many students without hats, gloves, and sometimes even without winter coats in the cold weather. Please if there is some financial difficulty and you are unable to provide this clothing call me. All calls are confidential and arrangements can be made to obtain what your child may need.

If there are any questions I am at school daily from 8:30 until 4:00 daily. My phone number is 841-8632. Please remember to keep the office and myself informed of any new phone number changes. Thank you.

Annette B. Hanson RN, School Nurse



Cold weather tips

- Pets should be inside.
- Car doors should be left unlocked, if possible.
- Frostbite causes a loss of feeling and a white or pale appearance in extremities, such as fingers, toes, earlobes, or the tip of the nose. If these symptoms are detected, get medical help immediately.
- Hypothermia causes uncontrollable shivering, memory loss, disorientation, incoherence, slurred speech, drowsiness, and apparent exhaustion. Body temperature will drop below 95 degrees. If medical help is not available, begin warming the person slowly. Get the person into dry clothing and wrap in a warm blanket, covering the head and neck. Do not give the person alcohol, drugs, coffee, or any hot beverage or food. Do not warm the arms and legs first. This drives the cold blood toward the heart and can lead to heart failure.



It's Cold

- 4° Yesterday's low (6:30 a.m.)
- 9° Record low for date (1982)
- 4° Yesterday's average temperature
- 40° Yesterday's lowest wind chill (11:50 a.m.)

		Computing wind chill															
		Actual air temperature								Apparent temperature							
Wind speed (MPH)		35	30	25	20	15	10	5	0	-5	-10	-15	-20	-25	-30	-35	
		35	30	25	20	15	10	5	0	-5	-10	-15	-20	-25	-30	-35	
5		33	27	21	16	12	7	0	-5	-10	-15	-21	-26	-31	-36	-42	
10		22	16	10	3	-3	-9	-15	-22	-27	-34	-40	-46	-52	-58	-64	
15		16	9	2	-5	-11	-18	-25	-31	-38	-45	-51	-58	-65	-72	-78	
20		12	4	-3	-10	-17	-24	-31	-39	-46	-53	-60	-67	-74	-81	-88	
25		8	1	-7	-15	-22	-29	-36	-44	-51	-59	-66	-74	-81	-88	-96	
30		6	-2	-10	-18	-25	-33	-41	-49	-56	-64	-71	-79	-86	-93	-101	
35		4	-4	-12	-20	-27	-35	-43	-52	-58	-67	-74	-82	-89	-97	-105	
40		3	-5	-13	-21	-29	-37	-45	-53	-60	-69	-76	-84	-92	-100	-107	
45		2	-6	-14	-22	-30	-38	-46	-54	-62	-70	-78	-85	-93	-102	-109	

Note: Winds of more than 45 mph add little to the chilling.

Ten Ways to Help Your Kids Get Organized



Developing good organizational skills is a key ingredient for success in school and in life. Although some people by nature are more organized than others, anyone can put routines and systems in place to help a child "get it together." Here's a list of strategies that you can use to help your child get -- and keep -- his or her life under control.

1. Use checklists.

Help your child get into the habit of keeping a "to-do" list. Use checklists to post assignments, household chores, and reminders about what materials to bring to class. Your child should keep a small pad or notebook dedicated to listing homework assignments. Crossing completed items off the list will give him a sense of accomplishment.

2. Organize homework assignments.

Before beginning a homework session, encourage your child to number assignments in the order in which they should be done. She should start with one that's not too long or difficult, but avoid saving the longest or hardest assignments for last.

3. Designate a study space.

Your child should study in the same place every night. This doesn't have to be a bedroom, but it should be a quiet place with few distractions. All school supplies and materials should be nearby. If your young child wants to study with you nearby, too, you'll be better able to monitor progress and encourage good study habits.

4. Set a designated study time.

Your child should know that a certain time every day is reserved for studying and doing homework. The best time is usually not right after school -- most children benefit from time to unwind first. Include your child in making this decision. Even if she doesn't have homework, the reserved time should be used to review the day's lessons, read for pleasure, or work on an upcoming project.

5. Keep organized notebooks.

Help your child keep track of papers by organizing them in a binder or notebook. This will help him review the material for each day's classes and to organize the material later to prepare for tests and quizzes. Use dividers to separate class notes, or color-code notebooks. Separate "to do" and "done" folders help organize worksheets, notices, and items to be signed by parents, as well as provide a central place to store completed assignments.

6. Conduct a weekly clean-up.

Encourage your child to sort through book bags and notebooks on a weekly basis. Old tests and papers should be organized and kept in a separate file at home.

7. Create a household schedule.

Try to establish and stick to a regular dinnertime and a regular bedtime. This will help your child fall into a pattern at home. Children with a regular bedtime go to school well-rested. Try to limit television-watching and computer play to specific periods of time during the day.

8. Keep a master calendar.

Keep a large, wall-sized calendar for the household that lists the family's commitments, schedules for extracurricular activities, days off from school, and major events at home and at school. Note dates when your child has big exams or due dates for projects. This will help family members keep track of each other's activities and avoid scheduling conflicts.

9. Prepare for the day ahead.

Before your child goes to bed, he should pack schoolwork and books in a book bag. The next day's clothes should be laid out with shoes, socks, and accessories. This will cut down on morning confusion and allow your child to prepare quickly for the day ahead.

10. Provide needed support while your child is learning to become more organized.

Help your child develop organizational skills by photocopying checklists and schedules and taping them to the refrigerator. Gently remind her about filling in calendar dates and keeping papers and materials organized. Most important, set a good example.

TO: PARENTS & STAFF
FROM: Dr. Anthony J. Bent
DATE: November, 2004

SHREWSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

As the winter weather approaches, I would like to remind you of the procedures the School Department will use for school cancellation, one-hour delay and/or early dismissal.

PROCEDURES

SCHOOL CANCELLATION

When school is canceled because of weather conditions, notification will be given, usually no later than 6:00 a.m., to these **television channels - 4, 5, 7 and radio stations - WXLO FM 104.5, WTAG AM 580, WSRF FM 96, WBZ AM 1030.** This information will also be on our website: <http://www.shrewsbury-ma.gov/schools/Central/snow/delay.htm>

The decision to cancel school will be based primarily on reports from the Highway Department and will reflect road conditions throughout Shrewsbury. Parents, however, are in the best position to judge conditions in their own neighborhood and may choose not to send their children to school if conditions so warrant.

ONE-HOUR DELAY

If there is an early morning safety factor, the School Department may announce a one-hour delay of the opening of school. (Only under very special circumstances will a two-hour delay be called.) The announcement will be made on the television and radio stations listed above, usually no later than 6:00 a.m. If this plan is in effect, starting times for a one-hour delay will be as follows:

<u>8:25 a.m.</u>	<u>8:45 a.m.</u>	<u>8:55 a.m.</u>	<u>9:30 a.m.</u>	<u>9:45 a.m.</u>	<u>10:15 a.m.</u>
High School	Oak Middle	Sherwood Middle	Parker Road Preschool	Coolidge	Beal/ECC Floral Street Paton Spring Street Beal West

Private Schools: 9:15 a.m. – St. John's; 9:25 a.m. – St. Mary's; 9:30 a.m. – Montessori & Al Hamra Academy

When there is a one-hour delay, buses for all schools and grades, including morning Kindergarten, will begin their routes one hour later than the regularly scheduled time. Parents who bring children to school must also wait one hour to do so. Teachers will also be arriving one hour late and there will be no supervision of children before that time. Special Education transportation will also be delayed one hour unless the student is individually notified of another adjustment. When a delay is called, there will be no morning Extended School Care Program. Afternoon kindergarten and preschool classes will begin at the normal time. Dismissal times will remain the same as on a regular day.

CANCELLATION OF AFTERNOON SESSIONS FOR KINDERGARTEN/PRESCHOOL

It may be necessary to cancel the afternoon sessions on days when bad weather conditions develop during the morning. Please listen to the radio stations listed above for notification of cancellation. The announcement will be made no later than 11:30 a.m.

EARLY DISMISSAL (This option will be exercised only under the most extreme circumstances)

Early dismissal requires the most cooperation between parents and school. If weather conditions and safety issues warrant early dismissal, notification will be made on the radio stations listed above. Parents should take the following precautions:

1. If parents work or are not at home, arrange for children to have a key to the house or to stay at a neighbor's home.
2. Listen to the above radio stations for notification of a cancellation.

TELEPHONE CALLS

Finally, it is necessary to emphasize the importance of listening to the radio for information. Please **DO NOT** call the School Department, Police or Fire Departments, or radio stations. The telephone lines are needed during storm days for emergency situations.

